CHAPTER 2

Examination of the Sound System of the Dialect

Introduction

In a survey such as the present one it has seemed best to concentrate upon purely phonetic elements rather than to attempt a phonemic analysis. One reason for this is that Selston is a dialectal break-up area, with increasing influence of RP, and at least two different phonemic systems must exist. For example, a speaker who showed a minimum of RP influence would say for "Kneel down to nail it", [nɛɪl dɛ:n tə nɛɪl ɪt], but in other speakers subject to RP influence this would probably be [ni:l da:n tə nɛɪl ɪt]. Some more traditional speakers would say ['swɪpsti:k] (sweepstake), and ['satl̩ ɔnʔ grɑs] (settle on the grass), whereas others less subject to traditional influences would say ['swi:pstɛɪk], and ['sɛtl̩ ɔn ðə grɑs]. In the following analysis the phonetic variants are to some extent regularised, and in speech many sounds may be arbitrarily exchanged with each other, a process in some respects very similar to phonemic free variation.

The material is presented in the following order:

A. Charts illustrating the tongue position of 1) short vowels, 2) long vowels, 3) diphthongs.

B. Descriptions and examples of 1) short vowels, 2) long vowels, 3 diphthongs.

C. Comparison of vowels and diphthongs of the dialect with RP.

D. Consonants.

Many of the words in the Selston dialect are pronounced as in RP, a fact which is evident from the transcriptions. Such words are far too numerous to be noted and any attempt to do this would contribute little to a general impression of the dialect. A much clearer impression can be given of the identity of the Selston dialect - of those features which make it different from other dialects and from any generalised notion of standard pronunciation - by careful choice of those words which obviously differ from RP pronunciation. Therefore, in the presentation of the following description of the sounds of the dialect, examples have usually been chosen from those words which are pronounced differently from their RP equivalents.

While examples were being collected, certain patterns of difference between the dialect and RP became evident in groups of words, where for example a certain vowel sound, for instance [i:], occurring in several dialectal words, would be represented in a lexically identical group of words in RP by a different sound, for instance [ɛɪ]. Such tendencies were considered worth examining in a separate section of this chapter entitled Comparison of Vowels and Diphthongs of the Dialect with RP.

In the present description of the vowels and diphthongs of the dialect, if the distribution of a sound is similar in the dialect to its distribution in RP, this is stated. In the description of each vowel and diphthong, examples of its use in both stressed syllables and unstressed

syllables are given where possible. Examples are arranged under the headings:

(a) Stressed syllables

(i) Initially, (ii) Medially, (iii) Finally.

(b) Unstressed syllables

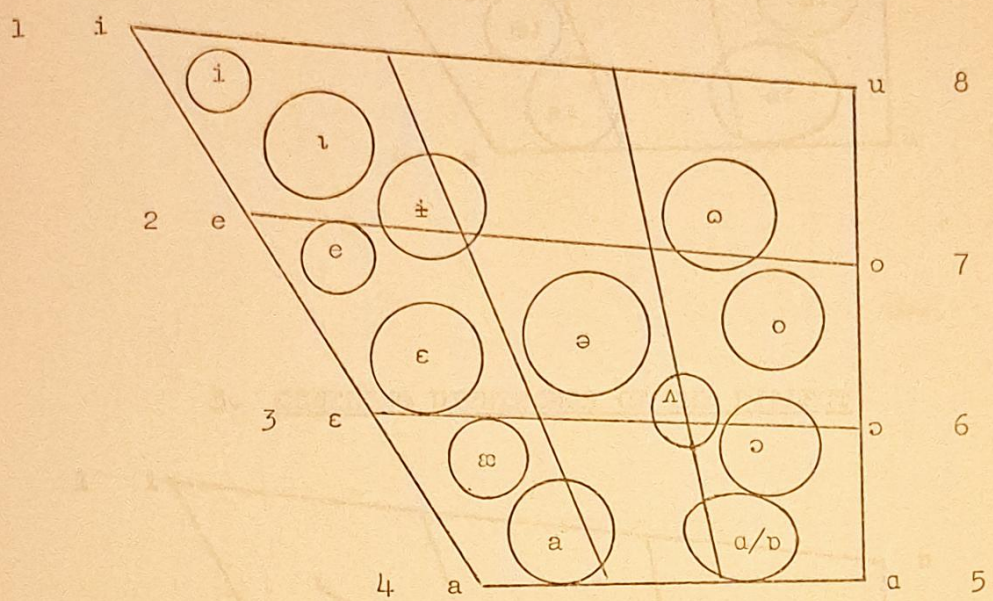
Sometimes a sub-heading "Singly" is used where the sound described constitutes a separate word.

Most vowels and diphthongs are described separately, but, in some cases, where a sound is obviously a variation of a more common sound, it has not been described separately but has been included under the most common sound in the nearest range. For example, in the dialect [e] is a rare variant of [ɛ] and is therefore discussed in a note to the description of [ɛ].

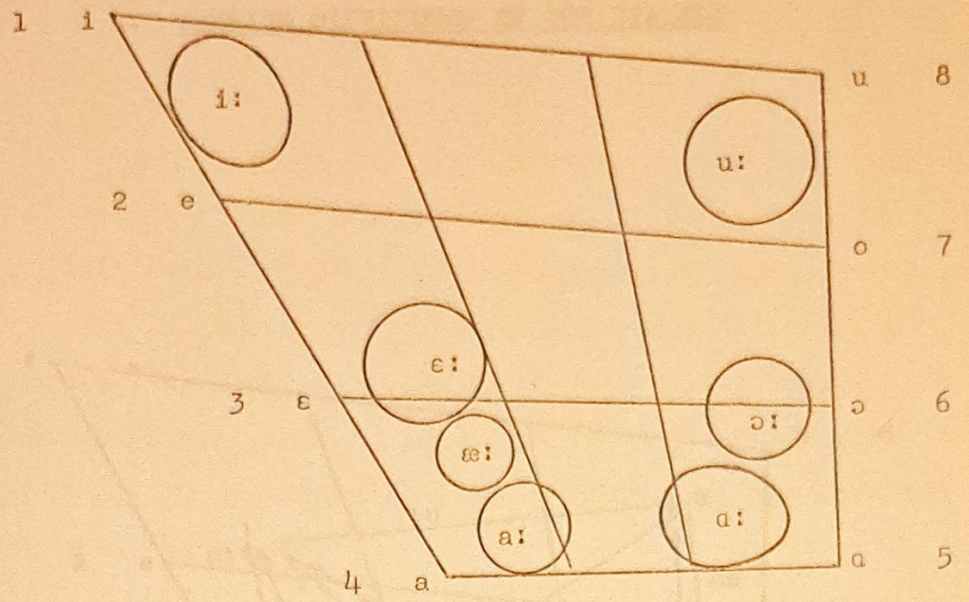
A. CHARTS ILLUSTRATING TONGUE POSITIONS

Cardinal vowels are included on the diagrams for comparison. In general, the sounds shown on the charts are all described separately, but others are added to make the charts more representative. [i] and [ɨ] occur in a note to [ɪ], p. 53.

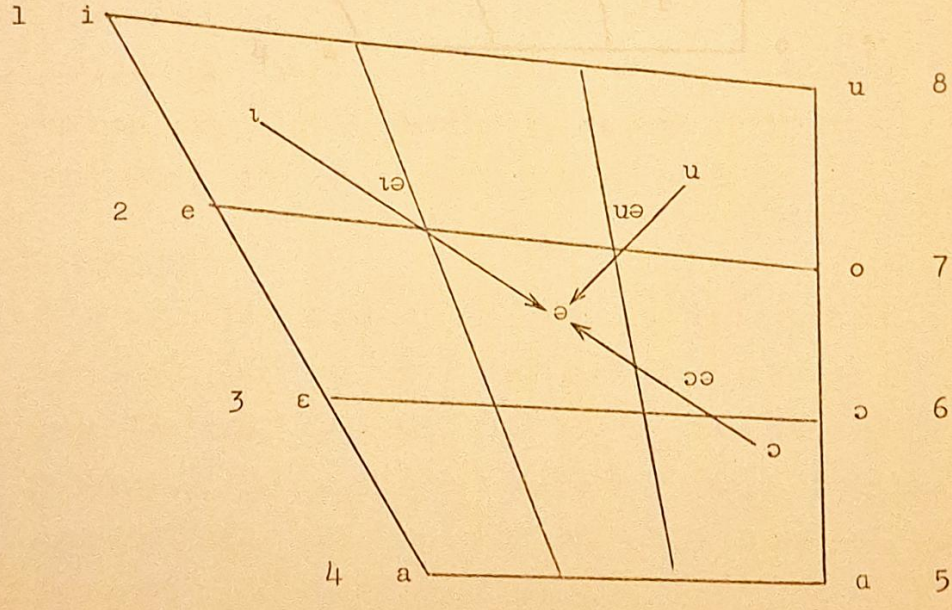
1. SHORT VOWELS OF THE DIALECT



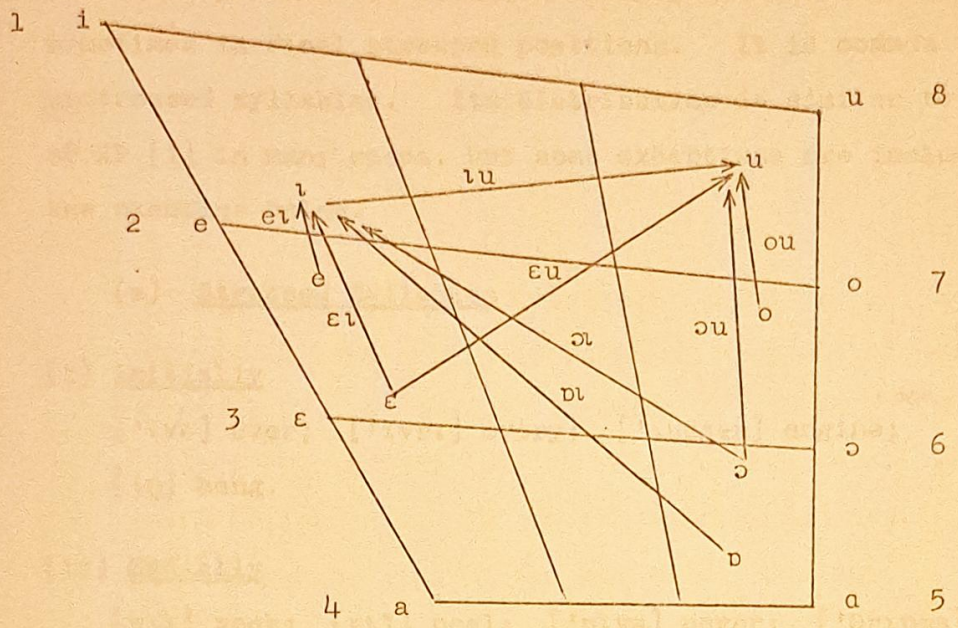
2. LONG VOWELS OF THE DIALECT



3. CENTRING DIPHTHONGS OF THE DIALECT



4. CLOSING DIPHTHONGS OF THE DIALECT



B. DESCRIPTIONS AND EXAMPLES OF THE SOUNDS

1. Short Vowels

[ɪ]

A high front lax unrounded vowel, somewhat lower and more retracted than cardinal 1. It is similar to the vowel of "bit" [bit], "fill" [fil], "basket" ['bɑ:skit] in RP. In stressed syllables it occurs initially and medially, and sometimes in final stressed positions. It is common in unstressed syllables. Its distribution is similar to that of RP [i] in many cases, but some exceptions are included in the examples below.

(a) Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

['ɪvə] ever; ['ɪvrɪ] every; ['ɪndʒɨn] engine; [ɪŋ] hang.

(ii) Medially

[wɪk] week; [pɪl] peel; ['nɪvə] never; ['θrɪp̩ms] threepence; ['dɪv̩l] devil; [jɪs] yes; ['jɪstədi:] yesterday; [fə'gɪt] forget; [sɪtʃ] such.

(iii) Finally

[sɪ] see; [ðɪ] thee, as in [sɪ ðɪ ɪə] see you here, see here; [mɪ] me; [ðɪ] thy, e.g. [kɷm ðɪ wi:z] come thy ways; [mɪ] my; [bɪ] by, by the time; [ðɪ] there, e.g. [ðɪ 'ɪzn̩t 'ɛnɪ] there isn't any; [wɪ] where, e.g. [wɪ^{2}'watə rɷnz 'ɔvə^{2} wɪə] where the water runs over the weir; [wɪ] were; was; with.

(b) Unstressed Syllables

[wɪk'ɛnd] weekend; ['tɪuθrɪ] two or three; ['ʃɛfɪld] Sheffield; ['mansfɪld] Mansfield; ['tʃɛstəfɪld] Chesterfield; ['ɪvrɪ] every; ['trʊmpɪt] trumpet; ['gɑ:dɪn] garden; ['vɛlvɪt] velvet; ['bʊkɪt] bucket; ['sʊvrɪn] sovereign; ['ɔ:lɪs] always; ['ɔ:gɪn] organ; ['sʊufɪ] sofa; ['dʒɪntɪ] (jinty) wren; ['bʊlɪ] bullfinch; ['flaksɪ] (flaxey) linnet; ['sɛt̚ədɪ] Saturday; ['mʊndɪ] Monday (all days of the week end with [ɪ]).

Singly

[ɪ] in; if.

NOTE

[ɪ] may sometimes be varied arbitrarily with [i] (a raised, fronted, tenser form of [ɪ] approaching cardinal 1) and with [ɨ] (cardinal 17), in certain stressed syllables. Under stress other than strong, [ɨ] is quite common, i.e. in unstressed syllables and in unstressed sentence positions, e.g. [ðɪ 'ɪndʒɨn wɨ 'kʊmɪn] the engine was coming.

[e]

See [ɛ], Note.

[ɛ]

Lower mid front lax unrounded vowel. Slightly more retracted than cardinal 3. It is similar to, though slightly lower than, the vowel of "bet" [bɛt], "pen" [pɛn], "head" [hɛd], in RP. It occurs initially and medially in stressed and unstressed syllables, but not in final position except in [wɛ] "we" (more usually [wɛɪ]). Distribution is similar to RP [ɛ], but exceptions (occurring mainly in stressed syllables) are given below in the examples.

(a) Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

*[ɛks] ask; *[ɛstə] have you; *[ɛv] have; *[ɛd] had; ['ɛnə] hasn't, hadn't; [ɛt] ['ɛt̪n̪] eaten.

(ii) Medially

[grɛs] grass; ['mɛstə] master, Mr., husband; [skɛn] (scan) look, squint; ['sɛt̪dɪ] Saturday; ['rɛdɪʃ] radish; *[kɛtʃ] catch; *['gɛðə] gather; *[mɛg] chatter (verb); *[slɛk] slack (small coal); *[sɛk] sack; *[fɛʃ] anger, worry (transitive); [bɛŋk] coal face.

Words marked * are alternative pronunciations for words which often have the vowel [a]. The forms with [ɛ] are quite common, especially in speakers with a minimum of RP influence. [mɛk] make; [brɛk] break; [grɛt] great; [slɛk] slake (thirst

or a fire); [wɑʃ] wash; ['ɛrɪwɑʃ] Erewash; ['wɑrɪt] worrit, worry (noun and verb); ['wɑrɪ] worry; ['nɛdnə] need not; [tɛm] (teem) pour; [hɛt] heated; [pɛp] peeped; [rɛtʃ] reach; [bɛt] beaten; ['mɛz̩lz] measles; [hɛps] hips (fruit); [gɛl] girl; ['ʃɛləbɪə] shillybeer (a type of hearse).

(b) Unstressed Syllables

[ɛks'pl̩eɪn] explain; ['ɪntərɛstɪn] interesting.

NOTE

[e], a sound approaching cardinal 2, but somewhat less tense and more retracted, is sometimes used instead of [ɛ], e.g. [nekst], [get] next, get. In many speakers [ɛ] is varied with [æ] [ɛ̈] [ɐ] [ä] [ɔ̈], e.g. [ɛ̈lts] [älts] else; [smɐl] smell; [twɔ̈lv] twelve; [tɛ̈l] tell; ['tälɪ] television. These occur usually before [l] but occasionally before nasals, e.g. [wɛ̈nt] went.

[æ]

Higher low front unrounded vowel, roughly midway between cardinal [ɛ] and [a] and somewhat tenser and more retracted. It sometimes occurs where [a] would normally be found, and occasionally occurs instead of [ɛ] before [l] (see [a], note p. 57, and [ɛ] note above).

[a]

A low, front, lax unrounded vowel, near cardinal a. It is somewhat lower than the vowel of "man" [man], "pack" [pak] in RP. It occurs initially and medially in stressed syllables, and in semi-stressed syllables e.g. ['kɔn,trakt], contract, and in some unstressed syllables, e.g. ['bɒlɪrag] scold. It is not normally found finally except in [ðа] thou, you. Its distribution is similar to that of RP [a] in many cases, but some exceptions are given below.

Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

['aldɪz] holidays; [am] ham; [aks] ask; ['adl̩] (addle) earn; ['arənd] errand; ['apən] apron.

(ii) Medially

[watʃ] watch; ['wat͡ʔnə] Watnall; [swan] swan; [want] want; [waps] wasp; ['wanzlɪ] Wansley; ['kwarɪ] quarry; ['swalə] swallow; ['waslɪn] wassailing; [swat] swat (a fly); [waz tə] was (were) you; ['wak͡ʔn̩] (waken) wide awake, lively, bright; ['waskɪt] waistcoat; [gam] game, play, sport (noun and verb) e.g. [ɛɪ wər 'ɔunɪ 'gamɪn] he was only having a bit of fun, [ɛɪz 'mɛɪʲɪn gam ɔn mɪ] he's making fun of me; [ʃak] shake; [bɒɪ 'ladɪ] by our Lady; ['babɪ] baby; ['watə] water; [klamd] (clemmed) hungry, starved; ['salsn̩] Selston,

['satl̩] settle; ['maθədz] methods; ['maksbrə] Mexborough; ['pasnɪps] parsnips; [paθ] path; [fast] fast; [last] last; [a'watə] how are you?

NOTE

[a] is sometimes varied arbitrarily with [æ], a higher and tenser vowel, and with [ɑ], a low back lax vowel, e.g. ['kændl̩] candle; [bæŋk] bank; [bɑd] bad; [mɑn] man. These variations may occur in the same speaker. (For words in which [a] may be varied with [ɛ] see Section C of the present chapter, [ɛ] (a), p.87). "Man" is pronounced [mən] in [mən 'rɒɪdə] man-rider; "shall" is pronounced [ʃəl].

[ɑ]

A low back lax unrounded vowel, approximately the same position as cardinal 5, although somewhat fronted from that position. It sometimes occurs where [a] would be more usual (see [a], note, above).

[ɔ]

Lower mid back lax vowel with very slight lip rounding. Lower than cardinal 6, it is similar to the vowel of "hot" [hɔt], "long" [lɔŋ], "got" [gɔt] in RP. It occurs initially in stressed syllables and in the initial unstressed syllables of [ɔst'reɪlɪə] Australia, and [ɔb'strɛpərəs] obstreperous, and medially in stressed and unstressed syllables. It does

not occur finally except sometimes in the pronunciation of "for", e.g. [fɔ mɪ] for me, [fɔ ðɪ] for thee, etc. (when the following pronoun is unstressed). Distribution is similar to that of RP [ə] but exceptions are given below. It is often used for the first person singular pronoun "I", other forms of which are [ɑ:] [ɑ] [a].

(a) Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

[ɔt] hurt; [ɔl] (hurl) throw; ['ɔvə] over, e.g. [ɔl ɪt 'ɔvər ɪə] throw it over here; ['ɔpn̩] open; ['ɔvn̩] oven (occasionally); ['ɔrɪ] hurry; [ɔs] horse; [ɔm] home; ['ɔnɪ] any, e.g. [an 'ɔnɪ ɔn jə 'ɔnɪ ɔn jə][1] have any of you any on you?; ['ɔməst] almost; ['ɔltə] alter, altar; ['ɔtʃəl] hotchel (strange or comical person); ['ɔsɨtɪ] strange or comical person; [ɔf] off; ['ɔfn̩] often.

(ii) Medially

['fɔðə] further; [ɛuz 'frɛɪt̬n̩d 'tɔpn̩ ə pɔs] she's frightened to open her purse, i.e. she's mean; [fɔst] first; [ə bɔdz 'dɔtɪd mɪ ʃɔt] a bird has dirtied my shirt; [wɔk] work; [tʃɔtʃ] church; [lɔn] lean; [dɔst] (durst) dare; ['dɔsnə] dare not; [bɔst] burst; [drɔv] drove; [frɔz] frozen; [wɔm] home; [wɔm ɪt] go home (said to dogs etc.); ['mɔðə] mother; [bɪ'kɔz]

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1. This expression was overheard as a miner's request for a match from companions. Said quickly, it was unintentionally amusing.

because; [sɔlt] salt; [fɔls] false (see also "fause" in glossary); ['fɔrədz] forwards; [kəm'parɪsn̩] comparison ([ə] here is under secondary stress), [gɔs] gorse; [mən] as in [mən 'rɒɪdə] man-rider (see glossary); [ʃɔl] shall, e.g. [ʃɔl tə] shall you.

(b) Unstressed Syllables

[ɔst'reɪlɪə] Australia; ['bɔlzɔvə] Bolsover.

[o]

Mid back round vowel, approximately the same position as cardinal 7 but lowered and fronted. It occasionally occurs where [o] is more usually found (see [o] note).

[o]

A lower high back lax round vowel, somewhat raised and considerably fronted from the position of cardinal 7. It is similar to the vowel of "put" [put], "good" [gud], "wool" [wul] in RP. In stressed syllables it occurs initially and medially, and finally in [go] go, e.g. [go tə wɔk] go to work. It sometimes occurs in unstressed syllables. It is usually found where [u] would be expected in RP, but see Section C of the present chapter, p. 91 for more extensive uses.

(a) Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

['ɔðə] other; [ɔp] up; [ɔz] us, our, we; ['ɔrɪ] hurry; ['ɔŋgrɪ] hungry.

(ii) Medially

[dɔz] does; [dɔn] done; [sɔm] some; [mɔtʃ] much; ['sɔndɪ] Sunday; [ə'nɔðə] another; [kɔm] come, came; ['kɔvəd] covered; [dɔk] duck; [dʒɔst] just; [kɔt] cut; [fɔn] found; [bɔn] bound, constipated; [pɔn] pound (v.); [grɔn] ground (v.); [twɔn] twined; [wɔn] RP [waund] wound (v.); [rɔn] ran; [trɔd] trod; ['tɔfɪz] toffees; ['fɔməd] foumart, stoat; ['nɔbdɪ] nobody; [mɔn] must; ['mɔnə] mustn't; ['dɔnə] don't; [brɔz] bruise; [sprɔt] sprout; [ʃɔl] shell (v.) (peas); [wɔn] one ([wɔn] is also common).

(b) Unstressed Syllables

['rɪubɔb] rhubarb; ['mɔʃrɔm] mushroom; ['bɔlwɔl] Bulwell; *[frɔm] from; *['krɪsmɔs] Christmas; *[bɔt] but.

NOTE

Other sounds which may sometimes occur in the same position as [ɔ] are [o] e.g. ['hoknə] Hucknall, ['botə] butter; and the central vowels [ə] and [ʌ] (in the examples marked *).

[ə]

A mid central unround vowel. It is similar to the initial vowel of RP "about" [ə'baut], the medial vowel of RP "enemy" ['ɛnəmɪ], and the final vowel of RP "sofa" ['soufə]. It is very common in unstressed positions, initially, medially and finally and its wide use may be seen from the transcriptions in Chapter 8.

(i) Initially

[əz] is, are, e.g. [ɒz əz əz ɪə] "us as is here", i.e. we who are here; [əz] us, as, which, who, that; [əz] our; [əd] would; [əz'sɛnz] ourselves; [ə'twi:n] between; [ə'fuə] before; [ən] one, e.g. [ðɑ̟:t ə rɛɪt ən] you are a "right" one (sarcastically).

(ii) Medially

['ɔ:ləs] always; ['ɑ:θstən] hearth-stone; ['kəuləs] coal-house; ['eɪləs] ale-house; ['tə̟ɪtəz] potatoes; ['ɔməs] almost; ['fɪsəz] fists (occasionally); ['rɪsəz] wrists (occasionally); ['bagθəp] ['bagθrəp] Bagthorpe; ['nɛuθrəp] ['nɛuθəp] Newthorpe.

(iii) Finally

['fɔlə] follow; ['barə] barrow; ['narə] narrow; ['ʃadə] shadow; [gə] go, as in [gə louk] go look, also in the expression [əz sɔft əz gə'louk].

(iv) Singly

[ə] on, have, of, or, e.g. ['apn̩ ə 'sɔndɪ] perhaps on Sunday; [ad ə wɔ:kt ɪt] I would have walked it, i.e. it would have been easy; [təp ə ðɛɪz kɪups] the top of these coops; [θrɛɪ ə fɔər 'a:zəz] three or four houses.

NOTE

Where the plural inflexions of nouns are syllabic, [ə] is the vowel used, e.g. ['ɔsəz] horses, ['bɔsəz] 'buses. [ə] is usually found in syllabic inflexions of verbs such as ['katʃəz] catches, ['rɔʃəz] rushes, ['stɑ̟:təd] started.

[ʌ]

A retracted lower mid central unround vowel. It is similar to the vowel of RP "cut" [kʌt], "cup" [kʌp], "dull" [dʌl], although it does not occur in the same positions as the RP vowel. It is a rare sound in the dialect, but is sometimes heard in [frʌm] from, [bʌt] but, words which more commonly have the sound [ə] or [ɔ] (See [ɔ], note).

2. Long Vowels

[i:]

A high front tense unrounded vowel, usually slightly lower and slightly more retracted than cardinal 1, though it may also have the value of [ɪ] or [ɨ] lengthened. It is similar to the vowel of "seat" [si:t], "chief" [tʃi:f], "meat" [mi:t] in RP when it is not diphthongized. It may occur in all stressed positions, and sometimes finally in unstressed syllables.

(a) Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

['i:ðə] either; [i:p] heap.

(ii) Medially

[tʃi:n] chain; [bri:nz] brains; [wi:t] wait; ['swɛɪpsti:k] sweepstake; [ni:l] nail, e.g. [ðə mən nɛɪl dæ:n tə ni:l ɪt̪] you must kneel down to nail it; [tri:n] train; [ɛks'pli:n] explain; ['pli:gra:nd] playground; ['ni:ðə] neither; *[ni:t] night; *[tə'ni:t] tonight; *['fri:t̪nd] frightened; *['li:t̪nɪn] lightning; *[li:t] light; [di:f] deaf; [wi:z] ways, e.g. [kʊm ðɪ wi:z] come thy ways, [gu: ðɪ wi:z] go thy ways; [ri:z] rise.

* These words are more usually pronounced with [ɛɪ]. See Section C of the present chapter, [i:] (b), pp. 93, 94.

(iii) Finally

[di:] day; [pli:] play; [wi:] way; [wi:] with (emphasised), e.g. [ɪu wɔr ɪ wi:] who was he with? ("with" is often pronounced [wɛɪ]); [gi:] give; [ði:] they (thee = [ðɛɪ]); [kɔnɪ'gri:] Coneygrey; [di:] die; [ti:] tie; [ti:] take.

(iv) Singly

[i:] hay.

(b) Unstressed Syllables

['jɪstədi:] yesterday; words ending in "-way" e.g. ['rəudwi:] roadway, ['rẹɪlwi:] railway.

[ɛ:]

Lower mid front lax unrounded vowel, slightly more retracted than cardinal 3. In stressed syllables it occurs initially, medially and finally, and is fairly common in unstressed syllables. In some circumstances it is found where [a:] would normally occur.[1] It may occur in all the examples in the section on [a:] which are marked *, and in the following.

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1. See Section C of the present chapter under heading [ɛ:], p. 95.

Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

[ɛ:n] earn; ['ɛ:lɪ] early.

(ii) Medially

[wɛ:k] work (where the usual form [wɔk] has been influenced by RP); ['pɛ:pəs] purpose; [pɛ:k] perch; [bɛ:n] burn ([bɔn] is the more usual pronunciation); ['kɛ:nl̩] colonel; ['dɛ:bɪ] Derby.

NOTE

In cases where dialectal [ɛ:] represents RP [ə:] the quality of the sound may vary considerably, and in different speakers it may approach the position of cardinal 2 ([e:]), or that of [æ:].[1] [ɛ:] is often diphthongized to [ɛə] [ɛ·ᵊ] [e·ᵊ] [æ·ᵊ] [æə].

[æ:]

A higher low front tense unrounded vowel, about half way between cardinals [ɛ] and [a], but often retracted to a more central position. In stressed syllables it occurs initially, medially and finally and it is fairly common in unstressed syllables. Idiolectally, it may be arbitrarily varied with [a:].[2] It is sometimes used instead of [ɛ:] in words where RP would use [ə:].[3]

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1. See [æ:], above. For examples of [ɛ:] in variation with [a:] in certain words see [a:], note, p. 68.
2. See Section C of the present chapter under heading [a:] (a), p. 96.
3. See Section C of the present chapter under heading [ɛ:] p. 94.

Examples

[tæ:m] term; ['sæ:pləs] surplus; ['læ:kɪ] lerky (a children's game of hide-and-seek); ['pɪtsbæ:g] Pittsburg; [læ:n] learn.

[a:]

A low front lax unrounded vowel near to cardinal 4. It is longer and slightly lower than the vowel of "man" [man] in RP. In stressed positions it occurs initially, medially and finally, and is fairly common in unstressed syllables. In some circumstances [a̱:] [ɑ̱:] [ɑ:] occur in the same positions as [a:] and in other circumstances [æ:] [ɛ:] [ə:] may occur where [a:] is commonly found. [a:] and all these forms with which it may be arbitrarily varied are often diphthongized with [ᵊ] as a second element. This vowel does not occur in RP.

(a) Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

*[a:s] house, living room; *[a:n] ours; [a:t] out; ['a:θstən] hearthstone; *[a:] how; *[a:l] howl, owl.

(ii) Medially

*[ə'ba:t] about; *[ka:z] cows; *[ʃa:t] shout; *[da:n] down; *[sa:nd] sound; *[ra:nd] round; *[ma:θ] mouth;

*['fa:ntɨn] fountain; *[da:t] doubt; *[bra:n] brown; [fa:m] farm; [ʃa:p] sharp; ['pa:t̚ʔnəz] partners; [sta:vd] (starved) perishing with cold; [sta:t] start; [swa:m] swarm; [wa:m] warm.

(iii) Finally

[ka:] car; [fa:] far; [ba:] bar; *[ka:] cow; *[na:] now.

(iv) Singly

[a:] are; how; our; yes.

(b) Unstressed Syllables

*[a:t̚ʔ'sɒɪd] outside; ['tɔuba:] toll-bar; ['mɛudɪwa:p] (moldiwarp) mole; *['wɛsta:zəz] Westhouses (near Sheffield).

NOTE

In examples marked * [ɛ:] may occur as an idiolectal variation of [a:].

[ɑ:]

A low back lax unrounded vowel. When it is occasionally used in positions where [ɔ:] would be more normal, it is pronounced almost at the position of cardinal 5 or slightly higher. When it occurs as a variant of [a:][1], it may be

1. See Section C of present chapter under heading [a:] (b) p.97.

pronounced similarly to RP [ɑ:] as in "farm" [fɑ:m], but it is often fronted to [ɑ̟:]. [a:] sometimes occurs in the same positions as the diphthong [aɪ], as in the examples below. [wa:l] while; [ma:] my; [ta:m] time; [la:k] like; [ma:nd] mind. [a:] by itself is the usual form of "I" and "aye".

NOTE

In the following examples [a:] is found where [ɛ:] and [æ:] may also occur: ['sa:mən] sermon; ['sa:vɪs] service; [sa:v] serve; ['sa:t̪ɨnlɪ] ['sa:t̪ʔn̪lɪ] certainly; [a:n] earn; ['a:nɪnz] earnings.

[ɔ:]

A lower mid back lax round vowel, usually with the same quality as cardinal 6, although often somewhat lower and with less rounding. It is similar to the vowel of "sore", "saw", "soar" [sɔ:], "thought" [θɔ:t] and "horse" [hɔ:s] in RP, but usually slightly lower and less rounded. Its distribution is similar to that of RP [ɔ:], except in some cases (see [ou], p.103), and some exceptions below. It is common in stressed syllables, initially, medially or finally, and in unstressed syllables. It sometimes occurs as the diphthong [ɔ:^{ə}] and occasionally [ɔə]. Speakers may sometimes vary the sound with [ɒ:] and [ɑ:], and [ɔ:] is usually closer to these sounds than is RP [ɔ:].

(a) Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

[ɔ:l] all, haul; ['ɔ:liz] always.

(ii) Medially

[wɔ:k] walk; ['kwɔ:tə] quarter; ['mɔ:nɪn] morning; [tɔ:k] talk; [kɔ:d] called; [rɔ:d] road; [ʤɔ:] Joe, jaw.

(iii) Finally

[wɔ:] was; [wɔ:] war; [tɔ:] taw, marble; [mɔ:] more; [wɔ:] wall; [bɔ:] ball; [hɔ:] hall; [kɔ:] call; [bɔ:] bald (e.g. [bɔ:'jɛdəd] bald headed).

(iv) Singly

[ɔ:] all, hall, or.

(b) Unstressed Syllables

[ɔ:'kʲɛstrə] orchestra; ['tʃɔktɔ:] chucktaw (game of marbles); ['fɔt?bɔ:] football; ['pɔtɔ:kɪ] cheap, crude, ugly.

[u:]

A high back tense round vowel, slightly lower and more retracted than cardinal 8. It may be as low and retracted as [o], e.g. [go] go, [klo:z] clothes. It is similar to

the vowel of RP "moon" [mu:n], "choose" [tʃu:z], "rude" [ru:d]. It is rare in the dialect except in speakers who are influenced by RP. Words which are pronounced with [u:] in RP are almost invariably pronounced with [ɪu], [ɨu] or [ʉu] in the dialect.[1] There are a few examples of [u:]: [gu:] go; [tu:z] toes (often pronounced [tɔuz]), e.g. ['twɪlɪ tu:d] twilly toed; [klu:z] clothes (often [klɔuz]); [kru:tʃ] crouch (sometimes [krɪutʃ]); [gu:mz] gums (in mouth); [lu:z] looks, as in [lu:z tə mɛɪ] it looks to me.

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1. See [ɪu], p. 72 and Section C of the present chapter under heading [ɪu], (a), p. 99.

3. DIPHTHONGS

The diphthongs of the dialect are either centring or closing diphthongs and are normally falling.[1]

[ɪə]

A centring diphthong beginning at [ɪ] or a slightly higher and more front position and moving towards a central position. It is similar to RP [ɪə] as in "here", "hear" [hiə]. Sometimes speakers may use [eə] instead of [ɪə]. It occurs in stressed syllables, initially, medially and finally, and can occur in unstressed syllables. [ɪə] is sometimes varied with [eə], particularly in [skeəs] scarce, [steəz] stairs, [weə] wear.

(a) Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

[ɪəd] heard; ['ɪə wɪg] earwig ("battletwig" is the usual name).

(ii) Medially

[bɪəd] beard; [fɪəs] fierce; [kə'nɪərɪ] canary.

(iii) Finally

[ðɪə] there; [wɪə] where; [skwɪə] square; [prɪə] prayer.

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1. See Note, p. 73.

(iv) Singly

[ɪə] here, ear, hear.

(b) Unstressed Syllables

['ɪvrɪwɪə] everywhere; ['nəuwɪə] nowhere; ['səmwɪə] somewhere.

[ɪu]

The initial sound of this diphthong is often as far forward as [ɪ], but it is sometimes retracted to [ɨ] or [ʉ]. The second element approaches [u]. It occurs in stressed syllables, initially, medially and finally, and in unstressed syllables.

(a) Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

[ɪuks] hooks, fingers; [ɪuz] ooze; [ɪuf] [ɪuvz] hoof, hooves.

(ii) Medially

[skɪul] school; [fɪul] fool; [jɪuθ] youth, brother, intimate friend (male, of any age); [jɪuz] use; [mɪun] moon; [tʃɪuz] choose; [rɪud] rude; [frɪut] fruit; [bɪut] boot; [lɪuk] look; [nɪuk] nook; [ʃɪuk] shook; [bɪuk] book; [sɪut] suit.

(iii) Finally

[θrɪu] through; [dɪu] do; [tɪu] two; [fɪu] few; [nɪu] new; [ʃɪu] shoe.

(b) Unstressed Syllables

['ɪntɪu] into (at end of a sentence); ['ɔsʃɪu] horseshoe.

NOTE

In certain cases, this diphthong, which is usually falling, might be considered a rising diphthong, e.g. after velar consonants: [kɪups] coops, ['kalə'gɪulə] Caligula (a race-horse).

[eɪ]

A closing diphthong, the first element of which is similar to a backed version of cardinal 2. Most speakers appear to use a close variety of this first element, [e̞], and the diphthong [e̞ɪ] is frequently marked in the transcriptions included in Chapter 8. The second element of the diphthong approaches [ɪ]. The sounds [eɪ] and [e̞ɪ] can usually occur in identical positions, and they may occur in positions where [i:] is often found, or, under different circumstances, where [ɛɪ] is frequently used.[1] They occur in stressed

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1. See Section C of present chapter under headings [i:] and [ɛɪ], pp. 93, 101.

positions initially, medially and finally, and in such unstressed positions as in ['jɪstədeɪ] ['jɪstədi̯ɪ] yesterday.

[ɛɪ]

A closing diphthong similar in sound to RP [ɛɪ] in "day" [dɛɪ], "make" [mɛɪk] (the variety of the RP diphthong which has the lower starting point [ɛ] rather than [e]). It occurs in stressed syllables initially, medially and finally, in unstressed positions where the dialect is influenced by RP, e.g. ['jɛstədɛɪ] yesterday, as opposed to dialectal ['jɪstədi:]. It also occurs in some semi-stressed positions, e.g. ['bɛgə̯lɛɪ] Beggarlee. The second element of the diphthong approaches the position of [ɪ].

Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

[ɛɪf] half; [ɛɪtʃ] each; [ɛɪt] eat; ['ɛɪstwʊd] Eastwood.

(ii) Medially

[tɛɪθ] teeth; [ə'pɛɪs] apiece; [wɛɪdz] weeds; [dɛɪp] deep; [tʃɛɪk] cheek; [kɛɪl] keel (over); ['tɛɪtʃə] teacher; [slɛɪp] sleep; ['grɛɪzlɪ] Greasley; [tʃɛɪz] cheese; [gɛɪs] geese; [sɛɪd] "seed", i.e. saw;

[nɛɪz] knees; [nɛɪl] kneel; [ðɛɪz] these; [nɛɪt] night; [fɛɪt] fight; [rɛɪt] right; ['frɛɪʔn̩d] frightened; [frɛɪt] fright; ['fɛɪðə] father; ['rɛɪðə] rather; [wɛɪnt] alternative to ['wɪnə] for "won't" (will not).

(iii) Finally

[θrɛɪ] three; [ðɛɪ] thee, thou, you; [ʃɛɪ] she (alternative to [ɛu]); [wɛɪ] we; [tɛɪ] tea; [trɛɪ] tree; [tɛɪ] take; [mɛɪ] make; [nɛɪ] nigh, e.g. [ɛɪ nɛɪ kɪld mɪ] he nearly killed me.

(iv) Singly

[ɛɪ] he; [ɛɪ] have.

NOTE

Dialectal [ɛɪ] apparently may be arbitrarily varied with [æɪ], and [aɪ] occasionally in broad speakers, and with [eɪ] and [e̞ɪ] and [i:] in all speakers, especially those influenced by RP.

[ɛu]

A closing diphthong, of which the first element is near in quality to cardinal 3, and moves towards the second element which approaches cardinal 8. This diphthong may sometimes be varied with [ou], especially by speakers influenced by RP, but this only occurs in words whose RP equivalent has the

sound [ou]. The diphthong [ɛu] occurs in stressed syllables, initially and medially and can occur in unstressed syllables.

(a) Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

[ɛud] old, hold; [ɛut] aught, anything.

(ii) Medially

[kɛud] cold; [gɛud] gold; [fɛud] fold; [nɛut] nought, nothing; [bɛud] bold; [tɛud] told; [rɛuld] rolled; ['ʃɛudəz] shoulders; ['sɛudʒə] soldier; ['nɛuθrəp] Newthorpe; ['mɛudɪwa:p] moldiwarp, i.e. mole; [lɛuk] look.

(iii) Singly

[ɛu] she.

(b) Unstressed Syllables

['fɒtɛud] foothold; ['θrɛʃɛud] threshold.

[ɒɪ]

A closing diphthong, usually starting near to the position of cardinal 13. The first element is a low, back, slightly rounded sound, and the second element is similar to the

second element of [ɑɪ]. It occurs in stressed positions initially, medially and finally, and is quite common in unstressed positions. The diphthong [aɪ], the first element of which is more central and completely unround, is sometimes found in positions where [ɒɪ] may occur.

(a) Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

[ɒɪt] height; [ɒɪ̈t] aisle.

(ii) Medially

[lɒɪk] like; [sɒɪd] side; [a:ʊ̈'sɒɪd] outside; [prɒɪz] prize; [fɒɪv] five; [tɒɪm] time.

(iii) Finally

[pɒɪ] pie; [ðɒɪ] thy.

(iv) Singly

[ɒɪ] high, eye.

(b) Unstressed Syllables

['ku:dɪrɒɪ] corduroy.

[ɔɪ]

A closing diphthong similar to RP [ɔɪ], as in "boy" [bɔɪ], "voice" [vɔɪs]. It begins with a sound near in quality to cardinal 6, and the second element approaches [ɪ] of the dialect. It occurs in stressed syllables initially, medially and finally, and in unstressed positions.

(a) Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

[ɔɪɬ] oil; [ɔɪst] hoist.

(ii) Medially

[bɔɪɬ] boil; [vɔɪs] voice; [mɔɪld] moiled (hot and weary with work).

(iii) Finally

[bɔɪ] boy; [tɔɪ] toy; [ɛm'plɔɪ] employ.

(b) Unstressed Syllables

['alɔɪ] alloy.

[ɔu]

A closing diphthong, the initial sound of which is usually in the neighbourhood of cardinal 6, but may be higher. The second element approaches the position of cardinal 8. The positions which this diphthong occupies may also be occupied by [ou] [o̝u] [o̞u]. It occurs in stressed syllables initially, medially and finally, and in some unstressed syllables.

(a) Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

['ɔunɪ] only; [ɔun] own.

(ii) Medially

[rɔud] road; [lɔud] load; [kɔul] coal;
['kɔulɘs] coal-house.

(iii) Finally

[nɔu] no; [jɔu] you (stressed); [sɔu] so.

(b) Unstressed Syllables

['pɔ$^{?}$mɔul] pot mould; ['pɪg kɔut$^{?}$] pig cote or court.

[ɔə]

A centring diphthong, of which the first element starts with a sound similar to cardinal 6, and moves towards a central position. It is similar to RP [ɔə] in "more" [mɔə] and often occurs in the same words. It is sometimes varied arbitrarily with [oə] and [ɔ:], (in all the examples below) and with [uə] (especially in those marked + below, and see [uə], example marked *). [ɔə] may occur in all the examples given in the description of [ɔ:]. It occurs in stressed syllables initially, medially and finally, and in some unstressed syllables.

Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

[ɔət͡ʔs n̩ slɑ̟:t͡ʔs] remainders of food (orts and slarts).

(ii) Medially

['gɔərɪ] gory; ['kwɔətə] quarter; +[sɔəd] sword; [lɔəd] lord; +[tɔəd(z)] towards.

(iii) Finally

+[flɔə] floor; +[mɔə] more; +[sɔə] sore, saw.

(iv) Singly

+[ɔə] over.

[ou]

A closing diphthong, the first element of which starts somewhat in advance of cardinal 7, and moves towards the position of cardinal 8. It may often occur in positions where [ɔu] and [ɛu]+ would be more normal (see [ɔu] and [ɛu]). In stressed syllables it occurs initially, medially and finally, but does not usually occur in unstressed syllables.

Stressed Syllables

(i) Initially

+[out] aught, anything; +[oud] hold, old; [out] ought.

(ii) Medially

[θout] thought; ['doutə] daughter; ['foupnɪ] fourpenny; [fout] fought; [brout] brought; [broud] brood; [louz] lose; [jouz] use; [louk] look; +[foud] fold; +[goud] gold; [bout] bolt; [grouv] groove.

(iii) Finally

[θou] thaw; [jou] you.

(iv) Singly

+[ou] she.

[uə]

A centring diphthong, of which the first element starts with a quality similar to [ɔ] or slightly higher and more retracted, and moves towards a central position. The following three sounds may occur in positions where [uə] is found: [oə] (in all the examples below), [ɔə] (for examples see [ɔə] - those marked +), and [ɔ:] in stressed and unstressed syllables, e.g. *[puə] [poə] [pɔə] [pɔ:] pour; *['da:npuə] ['da:npoə] ['da:npɔə] ['da:npɔ:] downpour. It is similar to RP [uə] as in [tuə] tour, [muəz] moors, and occurs in those positions in which this sound would occur in RP, as well as in other positions. It occurs in stressed syllables medially and finally and in some unstressed syllables, e.g. ['trapduə] trapdoor, [uə'grɔun] overgrown.

Stressed Syllables

(i) Medially

[duəz] doors; [muəz] moors; [spuət] sport.

(ii) Finally

[puə] poor; [ʃuə] sure; [duə] door; [fuə] four; [bɪ'fuə] [ə'fuə] before; [puə] pour.

(iii) Singly

[uə] over (also [oə]).

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* This refers to a note in [ɔə].

C. COMPARISON OF VOWELS AND DIPHTHONGS OF THE DIALECT WITH RP

Introduction

Sections A and B of the present chapter have described the sound system of the Selston dialect fully but without drawing comparisons with RP. However, during fieldwork it became clear that there were considerable differences between the dialect and RP in the pronunciation of words. It was evident that the dialect employs some vowels and diphthongs differing in quality from RP sounds, but the most noticeable difference was in the distribution of sounds. Often a particular vowel or diphthong common to several words in RP, e.g. [ə:] in "bird", "church", "dirt" etc. is consistently represented by a single different sound in the dialectal versions of the same group of words, e.g. [ɔ] in [bɔd] [tʃɔtʃ] [dɔt]. Similarly RP [i:] in "we", "tree", "deep" is represented in the dialect by [ɛɪ] in [wɛɪ] [trɛɪ] [dɛɪp]. Examples to illustrate these two sound differences between RP and the dialect were found to be so numerous that they could be considered as general tendencies, with some exceptions of course (for instance, while most words pronounced with [ə:] in RP are pronounced with [ɔ] in the dialect, RP [gə:l] is usually pronounced [gɛl] not [gɔl]). It was felt that wherever such tendencies emerged, they should be illustrated as fully as possible, in addition to the many miscellaneous examples of differences which do not conform to any general tendency within the dialect. In fact, one of the most striking features of

Selston pronunciation is that there are many other cases in which sound differences between the dialect and RP seem to follow such general tendencies rather than to manifest themselves merely in isolated examples.

To illustrate differences in sound distribution fully it is inadequate to take dialectal words at random and see how each differs from its RP equivalent. Such a comparison would obscure these general tendencies or patterns of difference between RP and the dialect, which could be observed if the comparison were more systematic. In order to structure the comparison between RP and the dialect usefully, it was decided to take individual sounds rather than words as the basis for organising the comparison.

It became apparent during fieldwork that a single dialectal sound could represent several RP sounds in different words. For instance, dialectal [ɔ] can represent RP [ə:] [ʌ] [ɔ:] [ou] [a] [æ] as shown below:

	Dialect	RP
bird	[bɔd]	[bə:d]
mother	['mɔðə]	['mʌðə]
horse	[ɔs]	[hɔ:s]
over	['ɔvə]	['ouvə]
man	[mɔn]	[man] / [mæn]

It was therefore concluded that differences in sound distribution between RP and the dialect would be best illustrated by taking each sound in the dialect in turn and investigating what RP sounds it can represent.

In order to facilitate any necessary cross references, the information in this section is arranged under the same sounds in the same order as the information in the description of the sound system, taking firstly the short vowels, then the long vowels and finally the diphthongs of the dialect. For the sake of clarity, and to save laborious cross reference, it has been necessary to repeat in the present section many of the examples given in the description of the sound system. The differences between the vowels and diphthongs of the dialect and RP are evident in both stressed and unstressed syllables, but more so in stressed syllables. In this chapter the majority of examples given are stressed, but where unstressed examples occur, the fact that they are unstressed is indicated, and they are placed after the stressed examples. Each dialectal sound is discussed in turn. In each case a general statement is first made of the range of RP sounds to which the dialectal sound can be equivalent. This is followed by examples arranged under the heading of each RP sound that the dialectal sound can represent.

[ɪ]

Distribution is similar to RP [i] with the following exceptions. In certain words dialectal [ɪ] can represent the RP sounds: [ɛ] [i:] [ɑɪ] [ə] [ɨ]. Examples are given below.

Dialectal [ɪ] may be used:

(a) Where RP would normally use [ɛ]

['ɪvə] ever; ['ɪvrɪ] every; ['ɪndʒɨn] engine;
['nɪvə] never; ['dɪvl̩] devil; [jɪs] yes;
['jɪstədi:] yesterday; [fə'gɪt] forget.

(b) Where RP would normally use [i:]

[wɪk] week; [pɪl] peel; [sɪ] see; [ðɪ] thee; [mɪ].

The following unstressed forms are found:

[wɪk'ɛnd] weekend; ['tɪuθrɪ] two or three; ['ʃɛfɪld] Sheffield; ['mansfɪld] Mansfield; ['tʃɛstəfɪld] Chesterfield.

(c) Where RP would normally use [aɪ]

(especially in monosyllables which are weakly stressed in the sentence)

[mɪ] my; [ðɪ] thy, e.g. [kɒm ðɪ wi:z] come thy ways; [bɪ] by, by the time.

(d) Where RP would normally use [ə] or [ɨ] in an unstressed position

['trʊmpɪt] trumpet; ['ga:dɪn] garden; ['vɛlvɪt] velvet; ['bɒkɪt] bucket; ['sɒvrɪn] sovereign; ['ɔ:gɪn] organ; ['sɒufɪ] sofa.

[ɛ]

Distribution is similar to RP [ɛ] with the following exceptions. In certain words dialectal [ɛ] can represent the following RP sounds: [a] [ɑ:] [ɛɪ] [i:] [ɪ]. [ɛ] is also used in some cases after [w] where RP would use a back vowel. Examples are given below.

Dialectal [ɛ] may be used:

(a) Where RP would normally use [a]

*[ɛs tə] have you; *[ɛv] have; *[ɛd] had; *['ɛnə] hasn't, hadn't; [skɛn] (scan) look, squint; ['sɛʔdɪ] Saturday; ['rɛdɪʃ] radish; *[kɛtʃ] catch; *['gɛðə] gather; [slɛk] slack (small coal); *[sɛk] sack.

Words marked * are alternative pronunciations for words which often have the vowel [a] in the dialect. The forms with [ɛ] are quite common, especially in speakers with a minimum of RP influence.

(b) Where RP would normally use [a:]

(the Northern standard equivalent being [a] in these cases)

[ɛks] ask; [grɛs] grass; ['mɛstə] master.

(c) Where RP would normally use [ɛɪ]

[mɛk] make; [brɛk] break; [grɛt] great; [slɛk] slake (thirst or a fire).

(d) Where RP would normally use [i:]

[ɛt] ['ɛʔn̩] eaten; ['nɛdnə] need not; [tɛm] (teem) pour; [hɛt] heated; [pɛp] peeped; [rɛtʃ] reach; [bɛt] beaten; ['mɛz̩lz] measles.

(e) Where RP would normally use [ɪ]

[hɛps] hips (fruit); ['ʃɛləbɪə] shillybeer (a type of hearse)

(f) After [w] where RP would use a back vowel

[wɛʃ] wash; ['wɛrɪt] worrit, worry (noun and verb); ['wɛrɪ] worry.

The following unstressed example occurs:

['ɛrɪwɛʃ] Erewash.

In certain circumstances [ɛ] may be varied with [e] [æ] [ɛ̈] [ɐ] [ë] [ö], see note on p. 55.

[æ]

Idiolectally [æ] is occasionally found in arbitrary variation with dialectal [ɛ] and [a].

[a]

Distribution is similar to RP [a] with the following exceptions. In certain words dialectal [a], which is sometimes varied arbitrarily with [æ] and [ɑ] can represent the RP sounds: [ɔ] [ɛɪ] [ɛ] [ɑ:]. Examples are given below.

Dialectal [a] may be used

(a) Where RP would use [ɔ] especially after [w]

['aldɪz] holidays; [watʃ] watch; ['waʔnə] Watnall; [swan] swan; [want] want; [waps] wasp; ['kwarɪ] quarry; ['swalə] swallow; ['waslɪn] wassailing; [swat] swat (kill a fly by hitting it); [waz tə] was (were) you?

(b) Where RP would normally use [ɛɪ]

['wakʔn̩] (waken) wide awake, lively bright; [gam] game, play, sport (noun or verb); [ʃak] shake; [bɒɪ 'ladɪ] by our Lady; ['babɪ] baby.

(c) Where RP would normally use [ɛ]

[klamd] (clammed) hungry, starved; ['salsn̩] Selston; ['satl̩] settle; ['maθədz] methods; ['maksbrə] Mexborough.

(d) Where RP would normally use [ɑ:]

['pasnɪps] parsnips; [paθ] path; [fast] fast; [last] last; [a'watə] how are you?

[ɑ]

This sound occurs idiolectally in arbitrary variation with dialectal [a].

[ɔ]

Distribution is similar to RP [ɔ] with the following exceptions. In certain words dialectal [ɔ] can represent the RP sounds: [ə:] [ou] [ɔ:] [ʌ] [a] [æ]. Examples are given below.

Dialectal [ɔ] may be used:

(a) Where RP would normally use [ə:]

[ɔt] hurt; [ɔl] (hurl) throw; ['fɔðə] further; [pɔs] purse; [fɔst] first; [ə bɔdz 'dɔtɪd mɪ ʃɔt] a bird has dirtied my shirt; [wɔk] work; [tʃɔtʃ] church; [lɔn] learn; [dɔst] (durst) dare; [bɔst] burst.

Wherever [ə:] occurs in RP, [ɔ] can nearly always be used in the dialect. Examples are so frequent that only a representative sample has been included here, but there is one common exception: RP [gə:l]

girl is pronounced [gɛl] in the dialect. Sometimes [ɔ] in such examples is varied arbitrarily with [ö] and [ə] as in [wök] [wək] work.

(b) Where RP would normally use [ou]

['ɔvə] over; ['ɔpm̩] open; [ɔm] home; [drɔv] drove; [frɔz] frozen; [wɔm] home.

The following unstressed example occurs: ['bɔlzɔvə] Bolsover.

(c) Where RP would normally use [ɔ:]

[ɔs] horse; ['ɔməst] almost; ['ɔltə] alter, altar; [sɔlt] salt; [fɔls] false; ['fɔrədz] forwards; [gɔs] gorse.

"Off" and "often", which in RP are sometimes pronounced [ɔ:f] and [ɔ:fn̩] are in the dialect always [ɔf] and [ɔfn̩].

The following unstressed or semi-stressed example occurs: [ɔst'reɪlɪə] Australia.

(d) Where RP would use [ʌ]

['ɔvn̩] oven (occasionally); ['ɔrɪ] hurry; ['mɔðə] mother.

(e) Where RP would use [a] or [æ]

[mɔn] man, as in ['mɔn 'rɒɪdə] man rider (see Mining Glossary, Chapter 3); [ʃɔl] shall, e.g. ['ʃɔl tə] shall you?

[o]

This sound occasionally occurs in arbitrary variation with dialectal [ɷ].

[ɷ]

This sound is usually found where [u] would be expected in RP. In addition the dialect almost always uses [ɷ] where RP would use [ʌ] in stressed positions, e.g. ['sɷndɪ] Sunday; ['kɷvəd] covered (see descriptions of short vowels, p. 60 for other examples). Exceptions are ['mɔðə] mother, and occasionally ['ɔrɪ] hurry and ['ɔvn̩] oven.

Past tenses of the verbs like "wind" and "find" have a form with [ɷ] in the dialect, where RP would normally use [ɑu], e.g. [fɷn] found; [bɷn] bound, constipated; [grɷn] ground; [wɷn] wound (present tense "wind").

The form [twɷn] (twined) occurs presumably by analogy with the examples above.

[ə]

Distribution is similar in many ways to RP, but there are many miscellaneous instances in which dialectal [ə] is used to represent a different RP sound, particularly in unstressed syllables. Examples of its varied use are given on pp. 61, 62. These are mostly single instances which do not follow a regular pattern. There are not many cases where dialectal [ə]

consistently represents a single RP sound in a group of words, but the two most important instances are as follows:

Dialectal [ə] is commonly used where RP would normally use [ou] in a final unstressed syllable, for instance: ['ɑ:θstən] hearth-stone; ['tẹɪtəz] potatoes; ['ɔməs] almost; ['fɔlə] follow; ['barə] barrow; ['narə] narrow; ['ʃadə] shadow.

[ə] is also used in the dialect where RP would often use [ɨ] in syllabic plural inflexional suffixes of nouns, for instance: ['ɔsəz] horses; ['bɔsəz] buses. [ə] is also used instead of RP [ɨ] in the syllabic inflexions of verbs such as ['kat$əz] catches; ['rə$əz] rushes; ['stɑ̟:təd] started.

[ʌ]

This sound occasionally occurs in arbitrary variation with dialectal [ɔ] or [ə].

[i:]

In certain words dialectal [i:] can represent the following RP sounds: [ɛɪ] [ɑɪ]. Examples are given below.

Dialectal [i:] may be used

(a) Where RP would normally use [ɛɪ]

[i:] hay; [t$i:n] chain; [bri:nz] brains;

[wi:t] wait; [ni:l] nail, e.g. [ðə mən nɛɪl dæ:n tə ni:l ɪt̚ʔ] you must kneel down to nail it; [tri:n] train; [ɛks'pli:n] explain; [pli:] play; [wi:] [wi:z] way, ways, e.g. [kʊm ðɪ wi:z] come thy ways, [gu: ðɪ wi:z] go thy ways; [di:] day.

The following unstressed examples occur:

['swɛɪpsti:k] sweepstake; ['jistədi:] yesterday.

Nearly all the words which would be pronounced with [ɛɪ] in RP can be pronounced in the dialect with either [eɪ] [e̝ɪ] or [i:]. The tendency to use [i:] when RP would use [ɛɪ] is more marked in broader speakers of the dialect. A few exceptions are: make [mɛɪ] [mɛk]; break [brɛk]; slake [slɛk]; great [grɛt]; waken ['wak̚ʔn̩]; shake [ʃak], but with less broad speakers all these words may have the diphthong [eɪ] or [e̝ɪ]. Speakers of the dialect may use [i:] in all those words which in RP have [i:], especially when they are consciously adjusting their speech to conform more closely to RP. However, there is a tendency, especially among broader speakers, to use a diphthong [eɪ] or [ɛɪ] or even [æɪ] or [aɪ], e.g. [aɪt̚ʔ'taɪnz] eighteens (a district in the pit).[1]

(b) Where RP would normally use [ɑɪ]

['i:ðə] either; ['ni:ðə] neither; [di:] die; [ti:] tie; [ri:z] rise.

The following words are more usually pronounced with [ɛɪ]

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1. See [ɛɪ], p. 75.

but occur sometimes as an idiolectal variation:
[ni:t] night; [tə'ni:t] tonight; ['fri:ʔn̩d] frightened;
['li:ʔnɪn] lightning; [li:t] light.

Where these forms do occur it is possibly a process of [i:] being substituted for dialectal [ɛɪ] on analogy with the dialectal use of [i:] for RP [ɛɪ]. Dialectal [ɛɪ] is often used where RP would use [ɑɪ].[1]

[ɛ:]

Dialectal [ɛ:] may be used in most words where RP would normally use [ə:]. Examples are given below.

[ɛ:n] earn; ['ɛ:lɪ] early; [wɛ:k] work (where the usual form [wɔk] has been influenced by RP); ['pɛ:pəs] purpose; [pɛ:k] perch; [bɛ:n] burn ([bɔn] is the more usual pronunciation); ['kɛ:nl̩] colonel.

In these cases the quality of the sound may vary considerably,[2] and in different speakers it may approach the position of cardinal 2 ([e:]), or that of [æ:].[3] [ɛ:] is often diphthongized to [ɛə] [ɛ·^{ə}] [e·^{ə}] [æ·^{ə}] [æə]. It will appear from the description of [ɔ] that many words in which RP would use [ə:] have [ɔ] in the dialect, but all these words may be pronounced with [ɛ:] when the speaker is influenced by RP, and [ɛ:] seems more common than [ɔ] among the younger and

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1. See [ɛɪ] p. 101.
2. For examples of the variation of [ɛ:] with [ɑ:] in certain words see Section B, [ɑ:], note, p. 68.
3. See [æ:] p. 65.

more educated speakers. These speakers rarely use the pronunciations with [æ:] [æ·ᵊ] [æə] [ɑ:] of words in which [ɛ:] may be used. These variations are normally only found in broader speech, in cases where [ə] does not occur where RP would use [ə:], e.g. in surplus ['sæ:pləs] and, unstressed, in Pittsburgh ['pɪtsbæ:g].

Dialectal [ɛ:] is also used as an idiolectal variation of dialectal [a:] in most words where RP would normally use [ɑu]. For example: [ɛ:s] house, [kɛ:] cow, [ɛ:t] out.

[æ:]

Dialectal [æ:] may, idiolectally, be varied arbitrarily in any word with dialectal [ɛ:] where RP would normally use [ə:], for instance, [æ:n] earn. [æ:] is often diphthongized to [æ·ᵊ] or [æə].

There are many words in the dialect in which [ɔ] occurs to represent RP [ə:].[1] All such words can be pronounced in the dialect with [ɛ:] and its variations including [æ:].[2] There are, however, some words in which dialectal [ɔ] never, or very rarely, represents RP [ə:] even in the broadest speakers, for example:

[tæ:m] term; ['sæ:pləs] surplus; ['læ:kɪ] lerky (a children's game similar to hide and seek); [læ:n] learn.

The following unstressed example occurs: ['pɪtsbæ:g] Pittsburg.

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1. See [ɔ] p. 89.
2. See [ɛ:] p. 94 and above.

[læ:n] learn, is the only one of the examples in which [ɔ] occasionally occurs. In the above examples [æ:] is used in speech least influenced by RP, whereas speakers influenced by RP tend to use [ɛ:] or [ɛə] in all words whose RP equivalent uses [ə:].

[a:]

In certain words dialectal [a:] can represent the following RP sounds: [aʊ] [ɑ:] [ɔ:]. Examples are given below.

Dialectal [a:] may be used

(a) Where RP would normally use [aʊ]

[a:s] house, living room; [a:n] ours; [a:t] out; [a:] how; [a:l] howl, owl; [ə'ba:t] about; [ka:z] cows; [ʃa:t] shout; [da:n] down; [sa:nd] sound; [ra:nd] round; [ma:θ] mouth; ['fa:ntɨn] fountain; [da:t] doubt; [bra:n] brown; [na:] now; [a:t'sɒɪd] outside.

In most words in which RP would use [aʊ] dialectal [a:] may be idiolectally varied with [æ:] [ɛ:] [ə:] and occasionally [ä:] and [ɑ:]. Notable exceptions are crouch [krʉʊtʃ] [krɪʊtʃ] and past tenses of verbs like wind, e.g. [wɒn] wound,[1] although [a:] is sometimes heard in these past tenses, e.g. [wa:nd] wound.

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1. See [ɑ] p.91.

(b) Where RP would use [ɑ:]

['a:θstən] hearth stone; [ʃa:p] sharp; ['pa:t̠ʔnəz] partners; [sta:vd] (starved) perishing with cold; [sta:t] start; [ka:] car; [fa:] far; [ba:] bar.

The sound occurs unstressed in ['təuba:] toll-bar.

In most words in which RP would use [ɑ:] dialectal [a:] may be idiolectally varied with [a̠:] [ɑ̟:] [ɑ:] (i.e. any sound value between [a:] and [ɑ:]). Notable exceptions are: father ['fɑɪðə]; half [ɑɪf]; rhubarb ['rɪubəb], although these words are sometimes pronounced with [a:] ("father" is sometimes ['faðə].

(c) In some words in which RP would use [ɔ:], but only after [w]. In these cases [a:] may be varied arbitrarily with [a̠:].

[swa:m] swarm; [wa:m] warm; [wa:p] warp.

The following unstressed example occurs: ['mɛudɪwa:p] (moldiwarp) mole.

[ɑ:]

This sound may be found in arbitrary variation with the following more common dialectal sounds: [ɔ:] [a:] [ɒɪ] [ɛ:] [æ:].

[ɔ:]

The distribution of this sound is normally similar to RP [ɔ:]. Words which in RP end [ɔ:l] often have the [l] either omitted as pronounced very darkly in the dialect, e.g. [wɔ:] wall; [bɔ:] ball; [hɔ:] hall; [kɔ:] call; [bɔ:] bald, e.g. [bɔ:'jɛdəd] bald-headed.

[u:]

This sound is rare in the dialect except in speakers influenced by RP. Words which are pronounced with [u:] in RP are almost invariably pronounced with [ɪu] [ɨu] or [ʉu] in the dialect. A few miscellaneous instances in which [u:] is used are given on pp. 69, 70.

[ɪə]

Dialectal [ɪə] is usually found wherever RP would use [ɪə]. In addition the dialect uses [ɪə], sometimes varied arbitrarily with [eə] wherever RP would use the diphthong [ɛə]. Examples are given below.

[kə'nɪərɪ] canary; [ðɪə] there; [wɪə] where; [skwɪə] square; [prɪə] prayer.

The following unstressed examples occur: ['ɪvrɪwɪə] everywhere; ['nɔuwɪə] nowhere; ['sɔmwɪə] somewhere.

[eə] seems to be a common variation of [ɪə] in certain words, for instance, [skeəs] scarce; [steəz] stairs, [weə] wear.

[ɪu]

In certain words dialectal [ɪu] can represent the following RP sounds: [u:] [ju:] (e.g. "suit", RP [sju:t]), [ɒ]. Examples are given below.

Dialectal [ɪu] may be used

(a) Where RP would normally use [u:]

[ɪuz] ooze; [ɪuf] hoof; [skɪul] school; [fɪul] fool; [jɪuθ] youth, brother, intimate friend (male, of any age); [jɪuz] use; [mɪun] moon; [tʃɪuz] choose; [rɪud] rude; [frɪut] fruit; [bɪut] boot; [θrɪu] through; [dɪu] do; [tɪu] two; [ʃɪu] shoe.

The following unstressed example occurs: ['ɔsʃɪu] horseshoe.

The above examples illustrate a general tendency. In the dialect, [ɪu] is used by most speakers in nearly every case where RP would use [u:].

(b) Where RP would normally use [ju:]

[sɪut] suit; [fɪu] few; [nɪu] new; [dɪu] dew.

(c) Where RP would normally use [u], spelt "oo"

[ɪuks] hooks, fingers; [lɪuk] look; [nɪuk] nook; [ʃɪuk] shook; [bɪuk] book.

[ɐɪ]

[ɐɪ] or [ɐ̟ɪ] may occur in positions where dialectal [i:] is found. For examples see [i:] in this section, p. 93 All those words listed under (a) can be pronounced with [ɐɪ] or [ɐ̟ɪ]. The tendency to use these diphthongs in these examples is more marked the more influenced the speaker is by RP. The less influenced the speaker is by RP, the nearer the diphthong approaches [i:].

Under different circumstances [ɐɪ] or [ɐ̟ɪ] may occur where dialectal [ɛɪ] is found. For examples see [ɛɪ] in this section, p. 101. All words listed under (a) can be pronounced with [ɐɪ] or [ɐ̟ɪ].

[ɛɪ]

In certain words dialectal [ɛɪ] can represent the following RP sounds: [i:] [aɪ] [a:]. Examples are given below.

Dialectal [ɛɪ] may be used

(a) Where RP would normally use [i:]

[ɛɪtʃ] each; [ɛɪt] eat; ['ɛɪstwʊd] Eastwood; [tɛɪθ] teeth; [ə'pɛɪs] apiece; [wɛɪdz] weeds; [dɛɪp] deep; ['tɛɪtʃə] teacher; [slɛɪp] sleep; [tʃɛɪz] cheese; [gɛɪs] geese; [sɛɪd] "seed", i.e. saw; [nɛɪz] knees; [nɛɪl] kneel; [ðɛɪz] these; [θrɛɪ] three; [wɛɪ] we; [tɛɪ] tea; [trɛɪ] tree; [ɛɪ] he.

The above examples illustrate a general tendency. In the dialect [ɛɪ] can be used in most other cases

where RP would use [i:]. Dialectal [ɛɪ] apparently may be varied with [æɪ] and [aɪ] occasionally in broad speakers, and with [eɪ] and [ɐɪ] and [i:] in all speakers, especially those influenced by RP.

(b) Where RP would normally use [aɪ]

[nɛɪt] night; [fɛɪt] fight; [rɛɪt] right; ['frɛɪʔ̩nd] frightened; [frɛɪt] fright; [nɛɪ] nigh (nearly).

(c) When RP would normally use [ɑ:]

[ɛɪf] half; ['fɛɪðə] father; ['rɛɪðə] rather.

[ɛu]

The dialect uses [ɛu] in any words which are spelt with "-old" and pronounced with the diphthong [ou] in RP, and the [l] is usually omitted in the dialect. Examples are given below.

[ɛud] old, hold; [kɛud] cold; [gɛud] gold; [fɛud] fold; [bɛud] bold; [tɛud] told; ['ʃɛudəz] shoulders; ['sɛudʒə] soldier; ['nɛuθrəp] Newthorpe; ['mɛudɪwa:p] moldiwarp, i.e. mole; ['fɑtɛud] foothold.

The following unstressed example occurs: ['θrɛʃɛud] threshold.

"Rolled" is often pronounced [rɛuld] in the dialect.

Dialectal [ɛu] is sometimes arbitrarily varied with [ou].

[ɒɪ]

The dialect consistently uses [ɒɪ] in positions where RP would use [aɪ] as in RP [maɪ] my, [taɪm] time. For examples see p. 77.

[ɔɪ]

The distribution of [ɔɪ] in the dialect is similar to its distribution in RP.

[ɔu]

The dialect consistently uses [ɔu] [o̞u] and less frequently [o̞u] [ou] where RP would normally use [ou]. A few examples of this general tendency are given below.

['ɔunɪ] only; [ɔun] own; [rɔud] road; [lɔud] load; [kɔul] coal; ['kɔulәs] coalhouse; [nɔu] no; [sɔu] so.

The sound occurs unstressed in: ['pɔʔmɔul] pot mould.

[ɔә]

Distribution of [ɔә] in the dialect is similar to its use in RP. It may be varied arbitrarily with [oә] [ɔ:] and [uә].

[ou]

This sound may occasionally be arbitrarily varied with dialectal [ɔu] in which case the distribution may be similar to RP [ou]. Other uses are as follows. In certain words dialectal [ou] can represent the RP sounds: [ɔ:] [u:]. Examples are given below.

Dialectal [ou] may be used:

(a) Where RP would normally use [ɔ:]

but usually only in the following examples:

[out] ought; [θout] thought; ['doutə] daughter; ['foupnɪ] fourpenny; [fout] fought; [brout] brought; [θou] thaw.

With the exceptions of "thaw" and "fourpenny", it is noticeable that the above examples are all spelt with "-aught" or "-ought" and the diphthong immediately precedes [t].

(b) Where RP would normally use [u:]

but usually only in the following examples:

[broud] brood; [louz] lose; [jouz] use; [jou] you; [grouv] groove.

[uə]

This sound, which may be arbitrarily varied with [oə] and [ɔə] occurs dialectally in any positions in which RP [uə] would be found, e.g. [tuə] tour, and also in many positions

in which RP would use [ɔə] or [ɔ:]. Examples are given below.

[dɯə] door; [spɯət] sport; [fɯə] four; [bɪ'fɯə] before; [ə'fɯə] before; [pɯə] pour.

D. CONSONANTS

Some peculiarities of consonantal usage in the dialect

The material in this section consists mainly of unusual features of pronunciation involving consonants. It is intended to show how the consonants of the dialect, treated phonetically, differ from the sounds of RP in equivalent words. There appear to be three main areas of difference between the dialect and RP in the use of consonants:

1. the occurrence of a consonant in a dialectal word where no consonant occurs in its RP equivalent, e.g. ['skɔləd] scholar, [haʃ] ash;

2. the absence of a consonant in a dialectal word where a consonant occurs in its RP equivalent, e.g. [kɛud] is the dialectal equivalent of RP [kould] cold;

3. differences in articulation of the consonants in the dialectal and RP forms, e.g. [pɛ:k] is the dialectal equivalent of RP [pə:tʃ] perch. In some examples which seem to belong to this latter category the dialectal and RP words are not truly equivalent lexically, e.g. [skrat] seems to be the equivalent of RP [skratʃ] scratch. However, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, "scrat" goes back to Early Middle English

"scratte" and is of difficult etymology. The modern word "scratch", which dates back to Caxton's time, is apparently produced by a confusion of the synonymous "scrat" and "cratch" verbs.

The commentary on the sounds is presented in the same order in which the consonants appear in the following table, based on the IPA consonant chart.

CONSONANTS OF THE DIALECT

	LABIAL		Dental	Alveolar	Palato-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
	Bi-labial	Labio-dental						
plosive	p b			t d			k g	ʔ
affricate					tʃ dʒ			
nasal	m			n			ŋ	
lateral				l ɬ				
rolled								
tapped								
fricative		f v	θ ð	sz | r	ʃ ʒ			h
semi-vowel or frictionless continuants	w					j		

1. PLOSIVES

A. Alveolar

(i) [t]

(a) A glottal stop is very often heard in positions where [t] would appear in RP, especially between sounds which do not involve articulation of the tongue at the front of the mouth near the alveolar ridge. In the neighbourhood of sounds articulated by the tongue on or near the alveolar ridge, [t] is found with synchronic glottal closure, in which case the tongue need not touch the alveolar ridge but must come close to it. The sound is transcribed [t͡ʔ] in this survey, e.g. [bʌ^{ʔ} 'mɪʉunleɪ^{ʔ} wɪ^{ʔ} bɛs naɪt͡ʔ] "but moonlight was the best night"; [ðə mən ˌi:t͡ʔ ðɪ brɛd n̩ smɛl ət͡ʔ ðɪ tʃeɪz] "you must eat your bread and smell at your cheese".

(b) [t] is sometimes used for [d] in "behind" [bɪ'ɪnt].

(c) [t] is sometimes heard where RP would use [ð], e.g. [tə] thee, thou, as in [dɪd tə] did you, [as tə] have you, [kan tə] can you, etc. [tɪ] thou, [ɪf tɪ wants] if you want.

(d) Before syllabic [l], [t] is often found where RP would use [k], e.g. ['nɒtl̩z] knuckles; ['ʊntl̩] uncle.

(e) [t] is sometimes voiced[1] and becomes an alveolar fricative [r] before a following vowel, e.g. in "get" and "got" - [gɛr ɪt] get it; [gɔr ɪt] got it; ['gɛrɪn] getting; [gɛr ɔp] get up; [gɔr ɔm] got home; in "shut" - [ʃɔr ɔp] shut up; in "let" - [lɛr ɪm] let him.

(f) In the neighbourhood of certain consonants [t] often does not occur in many words whose RP equivalent would have [t], e.g. ['ɛɪswɔd] Eastwood; ['was wɔd] Westwood; [sɪ ðɪ dæ:n] sit down; ['sælsn̩] Selston; [ðɪ 'ɛnə 'gɔnə plɪ: wɛɪ əz] they aren't going to play with us; ['dɔs nə] durst not; ['ɔməs] almost; [kɛp] kept; [lɛp] leapt; [pɛp] peeped; ['rɪsəz] wrists; ['fɪsəz] fists; [ʃɪf] shift; [nɛks] next; [sɔf] soft; [dɔs] dost, do; [dɔs sɛɪ] do you see? The negative endings of auxiliary verbs do not have a final [t] as they do in RP, e.g. ['dɔnə] do not; ['kanə] cannot; ['wɔdnə] would not; ['wɪlnə] will not; ['ʃɔdnə] should not; ['ʃanə] shall not; ['mənə] must not; ['dɔsnə] durst not; ['kɔdnə] could not, etc.

(g) In the following examples [t] is found where in RP one would expect [tʃ]: [skrat] scratch; [skri:t] [skrɛɪt] screech, cry. There is no proof, however, that these are the same words as their apparent RP equivalents "scratch" and "screech", from which they may be considered lexically different.[2]

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1. A parallel process occurs in North American usage, e.g. ['lɛdə] letter; ['bɛdə] better.
2. See pp.105-6 for probable etymology of "scrat". EDD refers to "screet" as found in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, with the meaning "screech", but provides no information on its etymology.

(ii) [d]

(a) Before syllabic [l], [d] is occasionally found where RP would use [g], e.g. ['gɪdl̩] giggle, ['rɪdl̩] wriggle.

(b) [d] is sometimes heard where RP would use [ð], especially in [dɪ] they (unstressed).

(c) [d] is sometimes used finally, as in "scholar" ['skɔlɔd].

(d) [d] is often not found in "couldn't", "wouldn't", "shouldn't", where it would appear in RP, e.g. [kɔnt] [ʃɔnt] [wɔnt]. These forms can be found where the negative auxiliary forms ['kɔdnə] ['ʃɔdnə] ['wɔdnə] would be more common. The past tenses of verbs which in RP end with [aɪnd] have a dialectal form without [d], e.g. [fɔn] found; [wɔn] wound; [grɔn] ground; [bɔn] bound, constipated; [twɔn] twined; [pɔn] pounded. [d] is sometimes not heard at the end of such words as "stand" [stan], "land" [lan], "and" [an] [ən], "hand" [an].

B. Velar

(i) [k]

(a) [k] appears as an intrusive final consonant in words ending with "-thing", e.g. ['nɔθɪŋk] nothing; ['ɛnɪθɪŋk] anything.

(b) RP [tʃ], i.e. "ch", is rare in "perch". In the dialect the word ends with [k], [pɛ:k] (noun or verb); [pɛ:k ðɪ'sɛn da:n ðɪə] sit down there; [a:nɔkt ðɪs 'blɛsəd bɔd? lɛŋθ əf? tʃi:n ɔf ə? pɛ:k] I knocked this blessed bird the length of the chain off the perch.

(c) For substitution of dialectal [t] for RP [k] before syllabic [l], see 1.A(i)(d).

(d) [k] does not always occur in positions where it would be found in RP, in [mɛɪ] make (and its inflexions); [tɛɪ] take (and inflexions).

(e) [k] sometimes does not occur in "looks" (v.) [lu:z], e.g. [lu:z tə mɛɪ] It looks to me ...

(f) [k] is found with synchronic glottal closure in ['wak?n̩] (waken) wide awake, lively, bright.

(ii) [g]

(a) [g] occurs in the following words where it would not in RP: [lag] last; [fɔg] first; (both these forms are heard in children's games); [lɪg] tell a lie, or lies; ['lɪgə] liar.

(b) The final "g" of the "ing" ending is rarely heard in the dialect, e.g. ['skɪulɪn] schooling; ['tʃɔntərɪn] chuntering (grumbling).

(c) For substitution of dialectal [d] for RP [g] before syllabic [l], see 1.A(ii)(a).

C. Glottal

(i) [ʔ]

Both the glottal stop and [t] with synchronic glottal closure are common in the dialect. See 1.A(i)(a). See 1.B(i)(f) for use of [k] with synchronic glottal closure.

2. AFFRICATES

A. Palato Alveolar

(i) [tʃ]

(a) For use of dialectal [k] where [tʃ] is found in RP, see 1.B(i)(b).

(b) See 1.A(i)(g) for use of dialectal [t] where [tʃ] is found in apparently similar RP words which may, however, differ lexically.

3. NASALS

A. Bilabial

(i) [m]

(a) [nd] is often labialised to [m] before a bilabial consonant or glide, e.g. ['sampɪt] sand pit; ['samwɪdʒ] sandwich (as opposed to ['sandɪlz] sand hills).

(b) It is quite common for [m] not to be pronounced in [frə] from.

B. Alveolar

(i) [n]

(a) Forms with final [n] which are not found in standard usage are: [ɔn][1] of; [an] have (before a vowel); [nɔn] not; [mɔn] must; [sɛn] self (and its compounds); [ə'gɛn] against, close to; [sɪn] since.

(b) [n] is sometimes omitted in "children" ['tʃɪldə] and "on" [ə], e.g. ['apn̩ ə 'sɔndɪ] perhaps on Sunday.

(c) [n] is often omitted in [ɪ] in, e.g. [ɪ ðɛm di:z] in them days.

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1. OED states that "on" for "of", for instance in the phrase "on't" (of it), was common in literary use until about 1750 but is now dialectal or vulgar. In early times there was generally an actual difference of idiom, but from the end of the 16th century its use has been due to confusion of "of" and "on", especially owing to the reduction of both of these to "o'".

C. Velar

(i) [ŋ]

For substitution of dialectal [ŋk] for RP [ŋ] see 1.B(i)(a).

4. LATERALS

A. Alveolar

(i) [l] [ɫ]

(a) In the following representative examples, dialectal [l] seldom occurs where it does in RP, either medially or finally. If it does occur it is usually so dark as to be absorbed into the second element of the diphthong, e.g. [fɛud] fold; [ɛud] hold, old; [kɛud] cold; ['ʃɛudə] shoulder; ['sɛudʒə] soldier; ['ɔunɪ] only; ['ɔməs] almost; [fɔ:s] false, deceitful; [fau] foul, ugly; ['waʔnə] Watnall; ['ɷknə] Hucknall; ['nɷtə] Nuthall; ['bɔnsə] Bonsall; ['ʃanə] shall not; ['wɪnə] will not.

(b) In the following, and in words like them, [l] is often not pronounced, although dark [l] is frequently heard: [hɔ:] hall; [bɔ:] ball; ['bɔ: 'jɛdəd] bald-headed; [ɔ:] all, hall; [stɔ:] stall; [kɔ:] call; [lɷus ɔ:] "loose-all" (signal to stop work at the pit).

5. FRICATIVES

A. Labio-dental

(i) [f]

(a) [f] is used in the dialectal word ['kafɬ] or ['kɛfɬ] which has a similar meaning to RP "cavil", in which a voiced fricative is used. OED states that "caffling" is a variant of "cavilling". It is therefore likely that the words are of similar etymology. The dialectal word is used in the expression "haffle and caffle", meaning to argue, or occasionally, to cough.

(b) [f] is sometimes not pronounced at the end of "handkerchief" ['aŋkətʃə], and "if" [ɪ].

(ii) [v]

(a) [v] is not heard in "give" and its inflexions (RP [giv]), e.g. [gi:] give; [gi: 'oə] give over (desist); [gɪz] give us (i.e. give me); [gɛn] given, gave; [gɪd] given, gave. The dialectal form of "have" [ɛɪ] is also without a [v].

(b) [v] is often not pronounced in the dialectal form of "of", i.e. [ə], unless a vowel follows. It is not used in [nɪə] "never" in the expression [nɪə mɒɪnd] "never mind", and sometimes does not occur in "over" [oə].

(c) [v] is sometimes not found in "haven't", which may occur in the dialect as [ant].

B. Dental

(i) [ð]

For use of dialectal [t] where RP would use [ð], see 1.A(i)(c).

For use of dialectal [d] where RP would use [ð], see 1.A(ii)(b).

(ii)

[ð] is not pronounced medially in such words as [klu:z] clothes (RP [klouðz]), or finally in [wɪ] [wɑɪ] [wi:] "with". Initially, [ð] is omitted in "them" in unstressed positions, [əm].

C. Alveolar

(i) [s]

(a) Metathesis of [s] occurs in a few words, e.g. [aks] ask; [waps] wasp.

(b) [s] is sometimes not found in "hasn't", which may occur in the dialect as [ant].

(ii) [z]

(a) For use of dialectal [r] where RP would use [z], see 5.C(iii)(e) below.

(b) The final plural inflexion [z] is often not found in "was" and "years" which are pronounced [wə], [jɪə].

(iii) [r]

(a) Intervocalic linking [r] is common in the dialect, e.g. [a:t ər 'ɪzn̩] out of his; [ə lɔt ər 'oðəz] a lot of others; [tər ɛks'pl̩eɪn] to explain; [jɔ's tər ɛɪ] used to have.

(b) For dialectal use of [r] where RP would use [t], see 1.A(i)(e).

(c) Metathesis of [r] occurs in several place names ending in "thorpe", e.g. ['bagθrəp] Bagthorpe; ['nɛuθrəp] Newthorpe.

(d) There are some cases of [r] being omitted after voiced alveolar and voiceless bilabial plosives, e.g. ['ondəd] hundred; ['pɪmrəuz] primrose; ['pɔpətɪ] property; ['pɔpə] proper; ['apən] apron.

(e) In "was", [r] is used where RP would use [z], in [iu wɔr ɪ wɛɪ] who was he with? [ɛɪ wər ɔf] he was off, and in most cases in which "was" precedes a vowel.

D. Glottal

(i) [h]

(a) Initial "h" is rarely heard in the dialect (although it is occasionally used even by speakers least influenced by RP), e.g. [as tad ɛuʔ tɛɪʔ] have you had anything to eat?; [ɛɪz guɪn tɪʔ ðɪ] he's going to hit you.

(b) Words which in RP begin with a vowel may on occasion have full aspiration ([h]) initially, e.g. "hair" for "air". This is common where words are especially emphasised, e.g. [ɛɪ wɔkt hɔd ʃɪfts] he worked odd shifts; [ə 'sɔ:sə fʊl ə haʃ] a saucer full of ash. Often [h] appears to provide an easy transition between vowels, e.g. [wɪ'ðɪn ə hɛɪs ə] within an ace of; [ða kʊd ə hɛt ɪt] you could have eaten it; [ad lɒɪk tə had] I'd like to add; [tə hɛnd wɪð] to end with.

(c) For dialectal use of the bilabial glide [w] where RP would use [h], see 6.A(i)(a).

(d) For dialectal use of the on-glide [j] where RP would use [h], see 6.B(i).

6. SEMI-VOWEL AND FRICTIONLESS CONTINUANTS

A. Bilabial

(i) [w]

(a) Aspiration is sometimes replaced by a bilabial glide in "home" [wɔm], especially in older speakers with a minimum of RP influence. [wɔm ɪt] is often said to dogs to make them go away. This appears to have the sense "go home", but it seems possible that [wɔm ɪt] might mean "wham it", i.e. "beat it".

(b) In the following examples the dialect does not use [w] where it would be used in RP, e.g. words ending in "-wards", [tɔədz] towards; ['ɪnədz] inwards; ['æ:tədz] outwards; ['ɔpədz] upwards; ['fɔrədz] forwards etc., and in ['ɔ:ləs] always.

B. Palatal

(i) [j]

In "head" there is frequently an on-glide before the vowel replacing aspiration, e.g. [ðaz gɔr ə jɛd lɒɪk ə 'tɔnɪp] you've got a head like a turnip; [bɔ:'jɛdəd] bald headed; [jɛd fɔst] head first.